

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING

DATE: 9/3/03

AGENDA SECTION: Consent Agenda	ORIGINATING DEPT: Police	ITEM NO. D-16
ITEM DESCRIPTION: Homeland Security 800 MHz Equipment Grant Program		PREPARED BY: Roger Peterson

The State of Minnesota is developing a radio system throughout Minnesota that will insure the interoperability for all Public Safety agencies. The plan calls for a phased approach to grow the 800 MHz Trunked Radio System from the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area to the various regions of greater Minnesota. The radio system is now operational in the seven county metro areas, and is scheduled for construction in Southeastern Minnesota and West Central Minnesota in the next phase.

The plan requires the state to fund the construction of the network of towers and connecting equipment for the system. The costs associated for local units of government to join onto the state radio system must, however, be provided by the individual municipalities and counties.

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$27 million during the 2003 session, for the construction of the tower system in the Rochester and St. Cloud districts. The total necessary to complete the State sponsored infrastructure is estimated at \$46 million, however, the multi-year project, managed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, will be started with the partial funding.

A preliminary estimate indicated that approximately \$3.5 million would be needed for the Rochester/Olmsted radio system, which would tie into the State network. In order to mitigate those expenses, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management sought federal grant funds to help defray local costs, and received \$6 million designated for all twenty-two counties in the Phase three regions (SE MN and West Central MN). On July 23, 2003, Rochester/Olmsted County applied for \$3.5 million of the available grant funding. The Public Safety Radio System Planning Committee subsequently allocated \$2.2 million to Rochester/Olmsted County.

The grant funds do not require any matching local dollars, however, the funds can only be spent on the purchase of radio equipment and associated normal installation costs.

Local funds are needed to hire a consultant to design the local system and manage the implementation of the project. A Request for Proposal for the consultant work has been let. Proposals are expected to return in the amount of approximately \$125,000. Olmsted County will be asked to pay for one half of the expense of the consultant. Staff will make recommendations upon review of the proposals.

COUNCIL ACTION: Motion by: _____ Second by: _____ to:

Approval to participate in the Federal Homeland Security 800 MHz Equipment Grant Program. Approval to accept funding from the U.S. Dept of Homeland Security and state of Minnesota for the project. Approval to enter into a contract with a consulting firm for the design and project management of the radio system. Approval for the Mayor, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, or City Administrator to sign an agreement with the state of Minnesota and/or U.S. Dept of Homeland Security. Approval for the Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Mayor or City Administrator to sign contracts for vendors to facilitate the purchase of equipment and training under this grant program.